



Minidoka NHS News

October/November 2015

Breaking News

Assistance Requested

The Go For Broke Education Center is asking for assistance in locating people whose oral histories will be included in an upcoming exhibition. The people that they are searching for, and the last known place of residence:

Pat Hagiwara, Bellevur, WA

Joshua "Juggo" Hata, Bellevue, WA

Anita Korenaga (maiden name, Sister of PVT Shinyei Nakamine)

Takashi Matsui, Seattle, WA

Aiko Nakahara (married name)

Peter Nakahara, San Jose, CA

Victor Nishijima, San Mateo, CA

Susuko "Sue" Ogata

If you have any information on how the center can contact them or their families, please email Chris Brusatte, Exhibit Manager, at chris@goforbroke.org.

JACS Grants

The National Park Service received 29 applications for \$3 million in 2016 grants to preserve and interpret Japanese American confinement sites. The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program, established in 2006, provides money that can be used to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites.

To date, the program has awarded more than \$18 million in grants to 148 projects in 19 states and the District of Columbia. More than 60 historic sites are eligible for grant-funded work including the ten War Relocation Authority Centers. The 2016 grants will be awarded in the spring. The grant program website is:

<http://www.nps.gov/jacs>.

1952 Farm-In-A-Day -- 2016 Field-In-A-Day

On April 17, 1952, 1500 volunteers built a two bedroom house, constructed animal corrals, and plowed fields on land that had once been Minidoka War Relocation Center. John Herrmann, a World War II and Korean War veteran, received one of the over 180 land lots that had been distributed by the Bureau of Reclamation after the 33,000 acre Hunt Camp had been subdivided. The North Side Soil Conservation District approached him to allow his land to be a demonstration farm showcasing the newest farm equipment and conservation practices.

This Farm-In-A-Day event received much publicity including full-page ads in the *North Side News* inviting everyone to attend. Over 11,000 spectators showed up to watch the day's events. A printed program outlined events from opening ceremonies at 8:15; rose plantings and plowing in the morning; and trenching for pipelines and home building in the afternoon. John, his wife Elfrieda, and their daughter entered their new home at 6:45 pm.



Although advertised as a Farm-In-A-Day, the well was drilled earlier and a concrete foundation for the house was poured on April 16. Work continued for weeks after the event. The work done on April 17 increased the farm's value, but it never became self-sufficient.

The Conservation Fund purchased the property shortly after Minidoka Internment National Monument was established in 2001. It encompasses important central areas of the camp that highlight the homesteading era and agriculture in Idaho.

Field-In-A-Day



In keeping with the spirit of the 1952 Farm-In-A-Day event, Minidoka NHS and Friends of Minidoka are planning a **Field-in-A-Day** event on May 28, 2016. On that day individuals and groups are invited to join park staff in rebuilding one of the 14 baseball/softball fields that were interspersed among the 44 residential blocks.

Our hope is that surrounding communities and interested groups will support the project just as was done in 1952. Baseball field prep will take place in the days preceding the Saturday event. The day's events will include building and installing the field structures: backstop, two scoreboards, two player benches, and two bleachers; applying all field markings; installing bases; installing a wayside interpretive panel and donor plaque; and creating accessibility paths to the field.

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Minidoka Irrigator Headlines October 1943

Each month this column will feature headlines from the *Minidoka Irrigator* during the same month in 1943.

October 2: ***Final Influx of Tuleans Completed***

The third group of 486 Tuleans entered Minidoka making a total of 1,529 new residents.

October 2: ***Irrigation Season Closed September 29***

Delivery of water has been excellent during the past season which started on May 1.

October 9: ***Blood Donors Needed Here***

The hospital must have approximately five volunteers from each block to guarantee enough people of each blood type.

October 9: ***Army Honor Roll Up Soon***

The names of the 414 Hunt boys who are now serving in the armed forces will soon be on the signboard to be erected near the flagpole in the administration area.

October 16: ***Many Move Into Staff Housing***

The first six buildings of staff housing are completed. A 7th building and a dormitory for single people are still to be completed.

October 16: ***Yearbook Staff Picks "Interlude."***

Other entries considered were "Tower of Minidoka, Minidoka Reveries, Memordoka," and many others

October 23: ***Gym, Workshops for Hunt High***

The much-awaited gym-auditorium for Hunt High School has begun under the direction of the engineering department.

October 23: ***Pupils Aid in Picking Potatoes***

Fifty students picked potatoes which are being stored in the newly completed root cellar.

October 30: ***New Territory Now Open to Center Residents***

Nez Perce, Kootenai, Bonner, and Boundry Counties in Idaho are now open for relocation of evacuees.

Jerome: The Lost Camp



Open for only 634 days, the Jerome War Relocation Center was the shortest-lived of the WRA camps. It was the last to open on October 6, 1942 and the first to close on June 30, 1944. The Farm Security Administration purchased 10,000 acres of land eight miles south of the farming town of Dermott, Arkansas to build the camp. It consisted of swampland with hot and humid summers, heavy rains, and was infested with chiggers, mosquitos, and poisonous snakes.

The 500 acres of tar-papered buildings housed 8,497 Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens at its peak. The people incarcerated at Jerome were from Los Angeles, Fresno, and Sacramento, California and Honolulu, Hawaii. Also known by its post office designation, Densen, the camp was larger than Rohwer when it first opened.

After the Japanese were moved to Rohwer and other camps in 1944, the facility was refitted and later reopened as Camp Dermott for German Prisoners of War. Little is left to tell the story of the Japanese and Germans who lived here. Several concrete buildings and a 70 year old smoke stack remain. A National Historic Landmark monument remains as a reminder of the fragility

of civil liberties. It states, in part, "May this monument serve to remind us of these incidents and inspire us to be more vigilant and more alert in the safeguarding of the rights of all Americans regardless of their race, color, or creed."

On April 16, 2013, the World War II Japanese American Internment Museum in McGehee, Arkansas was dedicated to preserve the history of both Arkansas camps. Located in the original Depot in McGehee, it is 18 miles northeast of Jerome and 12 miles southwest of Rohwer. Since its opening in 2013, the museum has had visitors from over 15 countries and 48 states. Also known as the Jerome-Rohwer Interpretive Museum and Visitor Center, it serves as the interpretive center for both camps. The museum's two-year reunion was held on April 16, 2015.

John Howard's book, *Concentration Camps on the Home Front: Japanese Americans in the House of Jim Crow*, is a resource for information about the two Arkansas camps. For further information, visit the museum's website at rohwer.astate.edu.



A portion of the residential area of the camp



The 2016 Minidoka Pilgrimage will be held June 23-26.

For more information, contact the committee at:
minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com.

Veterans Day 2015

On this Veterans Day it is especially fitting to commemorate the Japanese Americans who fought for their country while their family and friends were incarcerated in detention facilities throughout the country.

General Eric K. Shinseki said it eloquently, "By now, we've heard all their stories. They fought in Italy and France and in the Philippines; they wore the insignia of the 7th Infantry, the 34th Infantry, the 100th Infantry Battalion, and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. We can all be proud of their accomplishments and should be humbled by their own humility – these quiet men, small in stature, who performed unbelievable acts of bravery; they were tigers in battle. Quiet

professionals, they performed their duty without fanfare – deflecting praise and avoiding recognition."

Major General Willoughby noted the importance of the Military Intelligence Service, "*The Nisei [in the MI] shortened the war by two years and saved possibly a million American lives.*"

Japanese American women served in the Women's Army Corps and the Army Nurse Corps.



The 442nd RCT in France in late 1944.

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The park is currently working on compliance which is necessary to move forward with the project.

Come and be a part of this historic event! If you or your group would like to adopt one of the elements of the project (i.e. scoreboard, player bench, etc.), please contact one of the following people: Alan Momahara at alanmomohara@hotmail.com; Keith Yamaguchi at k.yama1948@gmail.com; Jim Azumano at azumano@aol.com; or Carol Ash at carol_ash@nps.gov.

Not only will you be helping the park, you will be the first to have a chance to play on the new field!

In Next Month's Issue

- Baseball Field Update
- Golf at Minidoka
- Book of the Month
- Fire Station No. 1 Update
- Rohwer WRA Camp
- Recent Museum Collection Donations

If you have information you would like to share or topics you like to see discussed, please email Carol Ash at carol_ash@nps.gov.



The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

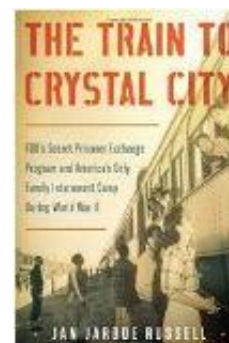
Book Corner: *The Train to Crystal City*

Jan Jarboe Russell

One of the least understood WWII stories involves thousands of men, women, and children, boarding trains to Crystal City, a small Texas town, to live out the war behind barbed wire. Jan Jarboe Russell artfully uncovers the at times surreal intricacies of the Crystal City experience for all those involved.

Many immigrant wives, left behind with their American-born children when husbands were arrested, voluntarily chose internment to be reunited as a family. Later, many families accepted forced repatriation to starving and war-torn Germany or Japan to escape the humiliation of betrayal by the government.

The Roosevelt administration also put agreements in place to intern Latin Americans of Japanese and German ancestry to be held for possible use in a prisoner exchange. No matter their origins, they were all cogs in the political machinery of war, pieces in Roosevelt's secret plan to exchange government prisoners for American diplomats, POWs, and businessmen trapped in enemy territory.



Russell intently unravels the pre, during, and post-war experiences of Crystal City residents, focusing mainly on two young girls: Sumi, a Japanese American from Los Angeles, and Ingrid, a German American from Ohio. *The Train to Crystal City* will uncover the tragedy of World War II in an entirely new way, and make you question what it means to be American.

The book was released this January and is published by Scribner.

The Train to Crystal City was reviewed by Mia Russell, SCA intern at Minidoka NHS.

2016 Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium

The Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium will enter its second decade in 2016. In the past ten years, the Symposium has explored issues relating to civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution including: Civil Liberties in Wartime; Civil Liberties and the Arts; Patriotism, Honor, and Sacrifice; Red, White, Blue and You: Color and the Constitution; Civil Liberties and the Media; and Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities.

The Symposium is changing from a June event to a fall event. The 2016 Symposium will be a weekend event, October 15 & 16, at Boise State University. In addition, the Symposium will partner with the Boise Art Museum (BAM) to highlight the museum's "Minidoka Exhibition" featuring five Minidoka artists: Takuichi Fujii; Kenjiro Nomura; Teresa Tamura; Roger Shimomura; and Wendy Murayama.

The 2016 theme reflects a growing Issue in the United States: *Mass Incarceration in the Land of the Free*.

Since 1980 the number of people incarcerated in this country has quadrupled. The United States has the largest prison population and highest incarceration rate in the world with 2.4 million people behind bars. The state of Ohio (pop. 11.6 million) has more people in jail than Pakistan (192.1 million). There are more African Americans under "correctional supervision" right now than were slaves in 1850. It costs U.S. taxpayers \$60 billion a year to keep the 2.4 million people behind bars.



A panel discussion concluded the first day of the 2015 Symposium on the topic: Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities

Recent books reflecting this phenomenon include: *Arresting Citizenship: The Democratic Consequences of American Crime Control* by Amy E. Lerman; *The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America* by Naomi Murakawa; and *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. The Symposium will explore issues including women in prison, prison and the elderly, mandatory sentencing, and taxpayer cost.

The Symposium is a collaboration with Friends of Minidoka, Boise State University, American Civil Liberties Union-Idaho, College of Southern Idaho, and the National Park Service. Planning is underway for the 2016 Symposium and your input is requested. If you have ideas about the topic, possible speakers, or questions you would like addressed, please contact Ross Burkhart at rburkha@boisestate.edu or Carol Ash at carol_ash@nps.gov.

This newsletter is published monthly for our friends and partners across America.

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The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island is a unit of Minidoka NHS. It is managed by Klondike Gold Rush NHP.

Comments? Write to:

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Presidential Medal of Honor to be awarded to Min Yasui



President Obama has named Min Yasui one of seventeen recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The Medal is our nation's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to the interests of the United States. The awards will be presented at the White House on November 24.

Min Yasui was a Japanese American lawyer who deliberately violated the curfew placed on Japanese Americans during World War II in order to challenge its constitutionality. He was taken from Minidoka in November 1942, served nine months in prison, and was then sent back to Minidoka in August of 1943.

After the war, he continued to defend the human and civil rights of all people the rest of his life. The Minoru Yasui tribute committee is preparing for celebrations to commemorate his 100th birthday in 2016. For more information check: www.minoruyasuitribute.org.



Min Yasui being filmed at Minidoka, 1985. Photo courtesy of Holly Yasui